

STORY OF THE
COOK BROTHERS

Once in Bad With Offi-
cers, Continued in
Banditry.

BILL GOES TO THE PEN

Made Good Resolutions But
Died Before He Could
Fulfill Them

TABLETAH, Oct. 9.—During the
progress of the regular term of dis-
trict court for Cherokee county a
few days ago, there was noticed
among the crowd two men one who
years ago was thought to have been
friends with the Cook band of out-
laws, while the other was known to
have shot and killed one of the law-
men.

The Cook band originated in the
Tabletaah district. Bill and Jim
Cook were of part Cherokee blood,
though they did not in features or
complexion indicate the fact. Ac-
cused of larceny, the Cooks intended
to leave this country, so they stated,
but while delaying their journey on
account of the "trip payment," they
became involved in a shooting af-
fair with officers and thereafter es-
caped in holdups and robberies.

The big payment began at Table-
tah in June, 1914. The Cooks,
with some friends, were staying at a
house near Fourteen Mile creek
when several officers rode out from
Tabletaah with the intention of ar-
resting the suspects. A fight ensued
in which one of the officers was
killed and Jim Cook received severe
wounds. No arrests were made. The
officers made their way back to
town and the outlaws fled to an-
other section. Thereafter the Cook
band was a reality and during its
somewhat brief but bloody career
many men were killed and many
robberies perpetrated. The most
dreaded and cold-blooded member
of the band was a big yellow "nig-
ger" who received the name of
"Cherokee Bill," though "Mulatto
Bill" would have been more appro-
priate.

Bill Cook, himself, according to
those in a position to know, was a
small potato and most of the mem-
bers of the band were more intelli-
gent than he. As time passed and
white and Indian officers trailed the
band its membership began to wane.
Some were killed, others captured,
and Bill Cook realized that its days
were over. So he left the Indian ter-
ritory, expecting to go to Mexico. He
reached the vicinity of Fort Stan-
ton, N. M., thinking himself well
out of the way of officers, but one
morning when he went to feed his
heavy horse, several deputy mar-
shals rode up and commanded him
to surrender. Soon he was placed
on trial at Fort Smith, Ark., con-
victed and sentenced to serve 45
years in the penitentiary at Albany,
N. Y.

After beginning his term in the
prison Cook issued a long statement
in which he related the story of his
career and blamed the officers to

Pasteboard Royalty
Abolished in Revised
Deck Playing Cards

CHICAGO, Oct. 9.—Twelve
more crowned heads, rulers of
forty subjects in a pasteboard
kingdom, have fallen in the march
of democracy and with them has
fallen the "royal flush," that tradi-
tion of poker, America's great-
est indoor sport. In the new play-
ing cards the king, queen and jack
are no more.

Instead, according to the pub-
lishers, an American doughboy
will replace the king, a Red Cross
nurse the queen, a "gob" the jack,
while the ace will be an aviator.
In the future poker game repartee
will sound something like this:
"Whataya got? I gotta pair
of gobs."
"No good. I gotta democratic
flush."

AN AMERICAN DARDANELLES

That's What Will Result if St. Law-
rence Is Deepened, Is Charge.
ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 9.—W. E.
Fitzsimmons, Albany, N. Y., address-
ing the Atlantic Deepener Waterways
convention today said if the federal
government lends its financial aid to
the plan of creating the St. Lawrence
into a deeper channel to the sea, an
advocate by 14 of the middle west
states, there will have been created
an American Dardanelles problem,
with a foreign government dictating
the movement of American vessels
and perhaps warship in and out of
the great lakes.

some extent for his troubles. He
stated, however, that he expected to
obey the rules of the prison and that
when he finally secured his liberty,
though he would then be rather an
old man, he would walk in straight-
jackets. His death, however, occurred
in a few years, and today there are
living very few members of the old
band.

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